(c) and (d) The fresh legislation was introduced in Lok Sabha and passed on 9th May 2003.

(e) In the first instance the airports of Delhi and Mumbai are being taken up for upgradation to world-class standards.

Air India's entry in domestic price war

151. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has joined domestic price war and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Air India's Domestic fares have always been lower than other domestic carriers operating in India. Most of the domestic sectors on Air India are an extension of international flights. Competitive domestic fares help to fill up seats on domestic leg, which otherwise would have operated empty.

Expansion of airports in the North-East

152. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated for construction, expansion or augmentation of airports in the North-East;

(b) if so, the details of the projects contemplated thereunder and cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) An amount of Rs. 250 crore has been earmarked in the Tenth Five Year Plan for construction, expansion and augmentation of airports in North-East.

(b) and (c) Details of projects alongwith cost and status are as under:

GUWAHATI-lnstallation of two passenger boarding bridges,

3 escalators, 2 elevators, expansion of apron and allied works and